

REMARKS

Claims 1-3 and 5-31 are pending in the application. Claims 1-3, 5-11, 13-21, and 26-29 stand rejected, and claims 12, 22-25, 30 and 31 are allowed. By the present amendment, claims 1 and 14 have been amended. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the claim rejections based on the above amendments and the following remarks.

Allowable Subject Matter:

Applicants gratefully acknowledge Examiner's indication that claims 12, 22-25, 30, and 31 are allowed.

Claim Rejections- 35 U.S.C. § 112:

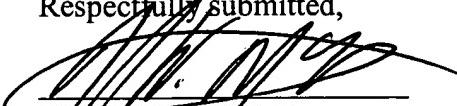
Claims 1-3, 5-11, 13-21 and 26-29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement.

In a telephonic interview with the Examiner on or about May 19, 2004, the Examiner acknowledged that the following claim changes overcome the claim rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, and place the application in condition for allowance. Claims 1 and 14 have been amended by replacing "and a diameter of 175nm or less" with --, *and wherein the deep trench etching is performed for a ground rule design of 175nm or less*--. The amendment to claims 1 and 14 is supported in the specification, for example, on page 9, lines 3-4.

In addition, claims 2-3, 5-11, 13, 26 and 27 depend from claim 1, and claims 15-21, 28, and 29 depend from claim 14. As such, these claims are believed to be allowable for at least the same reasons as given above for their respective base claims 1 and 14.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that all the claims now pending in the application are in condition for allowance. Early and favorable reconsideration of the case is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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